



News Release

For Immediate Release

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USADF Signs Four Grants to Support Economic Development in Senegal: Grants Will Support Marginalized Women's Groups

WASHINGTON, D.C. – September 30, 2009 – The United States African Development Foundation (USADF) has signed four grants to support grassroots groups in the Casamance Region of Senegal. The grants will benefit GIE Baracuda, GIE Fouta Dindefello, GIE Mere Theresa Kédegou, and Le Directoire Regional des Femmes en Elevage – Kolda (DIRFEL).

After signing the grants, USADF President Lloyd Pierson stated, “USADF serves the most marginalized populations in Africa. With these grants, USADF is funding economic development for those who otherwise would have limited to no access to jobs and higher incomes.”

GIE Baracuda is located in Foundiougne where there is a lack of employment opportunities. Most of the population relies on fishing for income. GIE Baracuda promotes the development of its members through economic opportunities and is seeking to take advantage of growing urban market for corn and peanut butter. The two year grant will provide assistance for equipment, training, technical assistance, and administrative costs.

GIE Fouta Dindefello is comprised of a group of twenty-two women who process and markets fonio, a local cereal, and baobab fruit. The women have been approached by two major buyers but are unable to meet the large orders. The two year grant will provide funding for modern equipment, working capital, and training.

GIE Mere Theresa's members are Bassari, a minority ethnic group that is extremely marginalized. Most are illiterate and do not have access to land. Members process and sell fonio as a means to make higher revenue and gain respect in their communities. The two year grant will fund new equipment, working capital, and training.

DIRFEL is an association of 2,000 women engaged in poultry production in an area that has high levels of unemployment and illiteracy. The group intends to take advantage of the growing urban demand for chicken products but does not currently produce or sell enough poultry to gain a foothold in the market. The two year grant will fund equipment, training, and technical assistance.

USADF established programming in Senegal in 1987. Senegal's current portfolio stands at fifteen investment projects totaling more than two million dollars. For more information about the portfolio, please visit the country's quick source page at <http://www.adf.gov/USADF-QuickSourceCountryPortfolioPage-Senegal.htm>.

The United States African Development Foundation (USADF) is a United States Government agency dedicated to expanding access to economic opportunity in Africa. Currently USADF operates in 20 African nations. Over the past 25 years, USADF has funded nearly 1,500 projects representing in excess of \$150 million in support of African enterprises and local African communities. For more information on USAD its programs and application guidelines, visit www.usadf.gov.

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